

REPORT OF THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR
THE EXTENSION FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

February 9, 1948

I. THE SITUATION TO PLAN FOR:

1. More than half of the specialists attending are new (1 to 2 years).
2. More than half of the specialists attending have had no previous extension experience.
3. Some have had little or no previous experience with rural people.
4. Some have not had training in education.
5. All have had good training in this field (M.A. or Ph D).
6. All have a genuine interest in people.
7. Most of those attending come from the Southern and North Central States.
8. The National Conference on Family Life will provide much subject matter. Speakers will be good.
9. We have 17 replies to the questionnaire with a good list of suggestions to use as guides.

II. OBJECTIVES, TO--

1. Evaluate the findings and recommendations of the National Conference and integrate them into Extension programs.
2. Exchange ideas and experiences on good procedures.
3. Examine and discuss new methods.
4. Consider exhibits and their uses.

III. WHAT ARE OUR SUBJECT-MATTER AREAS?

1. Human growth and development.
2. Basic human needs in all age levels, in every stage of the family cycle.
3. How these needs can be satisfied.
4. Conflicts in meeting needs--individual, family, and community.
5. The principles and factors involved in tolerance, compromise, and operation.
6. Counseling and guidance.

The specialists have a special training in the first three areas mentioned above, therefore, it was decided to concentrate on the last three. The following preliminary plan was developed. The general sessions will be devoted to areas of subject matter. The group work will be on methods.

IV. GENERAL SESSIONS (seven).

The general sessions will be devoted to orientation, the subject-matter areas, demonstrations, and group reports.

1. High lights of the National Conference.
2. The Extension Service as an educational agency. The role of the specialist.
3. The significance of the family's cultural background. Conflicts in meeting human needs--individual, family, and community.
4. Guidance and counseling--a responsibility for the family-life program.

5. Developing tolerance, compromise, and cooperation in the family and community.
6. Demonstrations--methods, etc., group dynamics and others.
7. Last session. Reports of group work. Conference summary.
8. Three half-hour sessions for the showing and discussion of movies.
9. Three half-hour sessions--discussion of exhibits.
10. A half day visit to (1) Beltsville Research Center to consider the projects under way that may be useful in our programs; and (2) Greenbelt--a Federal Housing Administration project--demonstrating low-cost housing, community organization, and cooperation.

V. GROUP WORK. FOUR 2-1/2- OR 3-HOUR PERIODS FOR GROUP WORK.

Five groups:

1. Findings of the National Conference. This group will study the findings and recommendations of the National Conference and make suggestions for their use by family-life and other subject-matter specialists.
2. Methods of group work. This group will explore new methods, and prepare suggestions for their use.
3. Evaluation. This group will study ways and means of measuring results and determining values, i.e., use pilot counties and communities.
4. Visual aids. This group will work on visual aids, studying those available, recommending and planning for others needed.
5. 4-H and older youth and other programs (?). This group will work on 4-H Club relationships and projects, on programs for older youth groups, and other areas that may need study. If the groups are large enough they may be subdivided.

VI. OTHER EVENTS:

1. Luncheon for purpose of meeting family-life workers in other agencies. Dr. Katherine Lenroot (or staff members) to describe the work of the Children's Bureau.
2. Panel discussion on mental hygiene in the family for employees of the Department of Agriculture.
3. Dinner and social evening.

II. THE HOURS: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., daily.
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., dinner and social evening (one).
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., for group work, two evenings, leaving three evenings free.